THE FIRST RECORD OF *CEPHONODES PICUS* (CRAMER) (LEPIDOPTERA SPHINGIDAE) FROM SOUTHERN QUEENSLAND

MURDOCH DE BAAR

10 Hereford Street, Corinda, Qld 4075 (Email: debaar@powerup.com.au)

Abstract

A southern distribution extension to Brisbane, SE Queensland, is presented for *Cephonodes picus* (Cramer), previously known from northern Australia and the Indo-Australian region.

Introduction

Cephonodes picus (Cramer) has a wide distribution across the Oriental and Australian regions, but in Australia it was considered to be confined to the extreme north of Australia (I.F.B. Common pers. comm.) and in the northern tropics of Queensland (E.D. Edwards pers. comm.). *C. picus* has since been recorded in Australia as far south as Rockhampton, central Queensland (Moulds 1998). This paper further extends the distribution for *C. picus* to Brisbane, southern Queensland.

While bee hawk moths, *Cephonodes* Hübner spp. and humming-bird hawk moths, *Macroglossum* Scopoli spp. were being studied in a suburban garden at Corinda, Brisbane (see De Baar 2007), a larva (Fig. 1), which differed from those of *C. hylas australis* Kitching & Cadiou and *C. kingii* (W.S. Macleay), was noted feeding on leaves of a Gardenia (*Gardenia augusta,* Rubiaceae). This larva was bred through to an adult *C. picus*.

Fig. 1. *Cephonodes picus* larva from Corinda, Brisbane.

Figs 2-3. *Cephonodes* spp. (2) *C. picus* from Corinda, showing apical spine on tibia of foreleg; (3) *C. hylas* showing reduced apical spine on tibia of foreleg.

New record

Cephonodes picus (Cramer)

(Figs 1-2)

Material examined. QUEENSLAND: 1 specimen, Corinda, Brisbane, collected larva 15.iii.2008, feeding on leaves of Gardenia (*Gardenia augusta,* Rubiaceae), pupated 19.iii.2008, emerged 6.iv.2008, M. De Baar (in De Baar collection, Brisbane).

Comments. Several larvae, representing three sphingid species, were collected on 15.iii.2008, feeding on a Gardenia (*Gardenia augusta,* Rubiaceae) in my garden. Two of these larvae proved to be *Cephonodes hylas australis* and *C. kingii*; the third was bred through to *C. picus*. The larva (Fig. 1) differs from that of *C. hylas* by having a broad, whitish dorsal band (this being more greenish in *C. hylas*) and lacking a thin, darkish lateral line (sometimes present on the *C. hylas* larva). The *C. picus* larva was collected from an established garden plant present in our yard since 1984, with no likelihood of introduction from the north via, for example, a potted plant.

The adult of *C. picus* is extremely similar to that of *C. hylas* but differs in having a strong projecting spine on the apex of the fore tibia (Fig. 2), whereas the fore tibial spine of *C. hylas* is poorly developed (Fig. 3) (I.F.B. Common, pers. comm.).

I had previously suggested the possible presence of this species in Brisbane, because of its similarity to *C. hylas* and thus being potentially overlooked (De Baar 2007).

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References

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